

Salt River Fire Department EMS Policies and Procedures

Medical Control Procedures



011/2015

403.01

SCOPE

This policy defines medical control for ALS providers. Medical control options approved by the Arizona Department of Health Services (AZDHS) include standing orders, off-line, and on-line medical control.

POLICY STATEMENT

ALS providers taking responsibility for scene management, medical control and/or patient care shall be individually responsible for understanding and performing these procedures.

BASE HOSPITALS

Salt River Fire Department Base Hospitals include Scottsdale Honor Health Osborn and Scottsdale Honor Health Shea and Honor Health Thompson Peak.

PROCEDURES

Standing Orders

Standing orders have been developed by the Arizona Emergency Medical Systems, Inc. (AEMS). (AEMS is the regional oversight committee designated by AZDHS). Salt River Fire Department off-line algorithms will be used in place of AEMS standing orders.

Off-Line Medical Control

Advanced Life Support off-line algorithms were developed by the Salt River Fire Department EMS Section to provide guidance and direction for SRFD Paramedics, physicians providing medical control, and personnel responsible for training and evaluation of EMS practice. These guidelines comply with the scope of practice for paramedics as established by the Arizona Department of Health Services Bureau of Emergency Medical Services.

Every SRFD ALS member is responsible for knowing and understanding local policies and protocols. Paramedics should use the off-line algorithms, related Standard Operating Procedures, and critical thinking skills to provide safe and

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appropriate patient care.

When operating under the off-line algorithms, SRFD ALS members are not required to establish on-line medical control (except where specifically noted) and may perform those procedures and administer those medications indicated and authorized in the algorithms. Where applicable however, a Courtesy Notification (CN) will be made to the receiving facility. A CN should include the following patient-related information:

- Age
- Chief complaint
- Treatments rendered
- ETA
- Vital signs (complete set)
- Mechanism of injury (trauma)

ALS members are encouraged to seek on-line medical direction when deemed necessary.

On-Line Medical Control

On-line medical control is direct voice contact with a physician (or nurse intermediary) for the purpose of receiving medical direction and advice. On-line treatment orders may only be received from a Salt River Fire Department Base Hospital physician. If an on-line physician outside the City wishes to give treatment orders, the ALS provider must discontinue the communication and contact his or her assigned Base Hospital for medical direction.

SRFD members must clearly state at the beginning of an on-line communication if they are making a “courtesy notification” or a “patch.” If a SRFD member is seeking orders, he or she is making a patch. In trauma patient situations, patch (not a CN) to the intended receiving facility for destination approval. On-line treatment orders may only be received from a Salt River Fire Department Base Hospital physician. Follow-up with the patient to the receiving facility is encouraged.

ALS providers are required to contact their assigned Base Hospital for on-line medical control in the following situations:

- Field terminations
- All Refusals
- Test patches

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- Inability to contact the appropriate receiving facility